

Reichhold Chemicals, Inc.

Corporate Headquarters
525 North Broadway
White Plains, New York 10603

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MAY 19 1987

Superfund Branch

REICHHOLD

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 15, 1987

Ms. Deborah Flood
Superfund Program Management Section
M/S HW-113
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Re: Facility Located at
5900 West Marginal Way
Seattle, Washington

Dear Ms. Flood:

This letter is in response to the letter from C. E. Findley to M. K. Best received on April 22, 1987, requesting information regarding the above-captioned property.

A search of Reichhold's records determined that Reichhold leased this property from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1946 or 1947 until 1960. During this period, Reichhold manufactured adhesives, formaldehyde, phenol-formaldehyde resins, and pentachlorophenol. Hydrochloric acid was produced as a by-product of pentachlorophenol manufacture. The exact dates of production of these units, their capacities, and the processes used are not known.

In the time available since receipt of the above letter and consistent with your response deadline, we have sought to answer the questions in that letter. Because of the time since Reichhold's operations at this location ceased, few records exist. As a result, our responses which are attached, were developed primarily from information provided by Reichhold employees, and documents obtained from EPA and DOE files. Reichhold will supplement these responses if further information develops.

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NORTHWEST REGION

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If you have any questions about this information, please let me know. If EPA wishes to contact Reichhold counsel on this matter, please direct such inquiries to:

Mr. Fred Morris
Perkins Coie
1900 Washington Building
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 682-8770

Sincerely yours,



M. J. Kowalski
Manager - Environmental Compliance

MJK/dm

cc: F. Morris - Perkins, Coie
A. F. Vickers - White Plains

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING
REICHOLD'S OPERATION AT 5900 WEST MARGINAL WAY,
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Question No. 1

What are the generic names and chemical character of the hazardous substances, as defined under Section 1004(s) of RCRA and Section 101(14) of CERCLA, that were generated, stored, treated, transported, disposed, or otherwise handled at the West Marginal Way site?

The Seattle Plant produced Adhesives, Formaldehyde, Phenol-Formaldehyde (P-F) Resins, and Pentachlorophenol. Hydrochloric acid was produced as a by-product of Pentachlorophenol manufacture. Based on an evaluation of processes used by Reichhold at similar production facilities, the operations at Seattle could have involved the following hazardous substances:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Substances</u>
Adhesives	- phenol
Formaldehyde	- formaldehyde
P-F Resins	- phenol
	- formaldehyde
	- o-cresol
Pentachlorophenol	- chlorine
	- phenol
	- pentachlorophenol
	- hydrochloric acid

Ammonia was also used at the plant but could not be related to a specific production unit.

Question No. 2

For each hazardous substance identified above, please describe how the substance was handled, when, and the total quantity in weight or volume (estimate if quantity not available).

Approximate production capacities of the units were as follows:

Adhesives	- Unknown
Formaldehyde	- 52,000 lb/day
P-F Resins	- 56,000 lb/day
Pentachlorophenol	- 5,000 lb/day
Hydrochloric Acid	- 13,000 lb/day

No other information is available.

Question No. 3

Where was this material stored, and where was it disposed? Where were waste treatment ponds and settling lagoons located on-site? After closure of the facility, were sludges from the ponds and/or lagoons removed?

No information on the storage or disposal of hazardous substances is available. There was a wastewater treatment system at the site but no information on its design or location is available. It is believed that the system was built sometime in the 1950's and consisted of two or more basins. All wastewaters from the plant were neutralized with lime or other alkali in the basins. The treated wastewater was then discharged to the Duwammish. It is not known if any sludges existed and, if they did, whether they were removed when Reichhold's operations ended.

Question No. 4

What arrangements (if any) were made to transport the hazardous substances away from the site? Who was the transporter of the hazardous substances, and what is his current/previous address?

No information is available.

Question No. 5

Provide all information you have regarding spills of hazardous substances on or around the site. This should include the generic name and chemical constituents of the material(s) spilled, the quantity of material spilled, clean-up measures taken, the cause of the spill and any other related information.

There is a record of a spill of an estimated 8000 gallons of formalin in December, 1948. No other spills could be documented.

Question No. 6

Describe all environmental investigations that have taken place on or around the property/facility. This includes investigations of the physical and chemical characteristics of soil, surface water, sediments, air, and groundwater. This also includes historical evaluations of potential/known contamination. Provide all relevant information including, but not limited to study design, workplans, quality assurance procedures, sampling procedures, well logs, study results, and data analyses.

Reichhold itself has conducted no environmental investigation at or around the site. The site has been investigated by EPA, Washington DOE, and their contractors. It is unknown whether prior and subsequent owners and operators have conducted similar studies.

Question No. 7

Provide all information on all known wells on-site including the number, associated well logs, date of installation, purpose of installation, and all uses of the well.

No information is available.